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HONGKONG, CHINA, *June 17, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended June 14, 1902:

Seven vessels were inspected during the week, 383 individuals were bathed, and 411 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. In addition, three steam launches intended for the Philippine customs service were inspected and held to complete fifteen days, as a case of plague occurred among the crews June 6, 1902.

The cholera situation in this city continues to show great improvement, 5 cases and 5 deaths having been reported among the Chinese population. This makes a total thus far this year of 345 cases and 307 deaths. Reports from surrounding cities also indicate that the epidemic has rapidly declined.

The sanitary returns also report 39 cases and 39 deaths from plague, 1 case and 1 death from smallpox, and 1 case and 1 death due to enteric fever. The total plague figures thus far this year are, therefore, 280 cases and 271 deaths.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,  
*Assistant Surgeon.*

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

*Experiments being made at Canton in the treatment of leprosy cases.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, D. C., June 20, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for the information of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, copy of a dispatch from the consul of the United States at Canton, China, transmitting a report of Dr. John M. Swan, in charge of the Medical Missionary Society's Hospital, at Canton, in regard to experiments being made there in leprosy cases.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,  
*Secretary of State.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

CANTON, CHINA, *April 25, 1902.*

SIR: Medical men at home and abroad will, I have no doubt, take a deep interest in the outcome of the experiments in leprosy cases now being made in Canton by the noted specialist Dr. Adolph Rezlag, of Vienna, Austria.

The following preliminary report thereon has just been made to me by Dr. Swan, of the Canton hospital:

"CANTON, CHINA, *April 25, 1902.*

"SIR: Knowing of your kind and generous interest in the work of this hospital, I beg leave to report to you a few brief facts in connection with an experiment now being made here by Dr. Adolph Rezlag, of Vienna, Austria. Dr. Rezlag came to us highly recommended by physicians of Hongkong, Manila, and other points in the far East, and his standing in the medical profession is unquestionable. He is specially interested in the study and treatment of Asiatic cholera and leprosy, and has applied to us for any aid we could give him to facilitate his work of research in connection with these diseases. In Manila, Sandwich Islands, and elsewhere his great difficulty has been to secure any degree of freedom in the study and treatment of leprosy or cholera, owing to the strict government regulations in connection with such diseases. He has also found it difficult to obtain reliable expert evidence as to the exact results he has accomplished in the treatment of leprosy and cholera.

"After carefully considering the matter and obtaining the approval of our board of hospital managers to lend Dr. Rezlag what aid we could, we have admitted 3 marked cases of leprosy into an isolated room and have given the doctor what aid we

could in providing suitable conditions for the treatment of these cases. Every precaution has been taken against infection from these cases which in twenty-four hours time have begun to show signs of improvement.

"From Dr. Rezlag's intelligent methods of treatment and the enthusiasm he shows in the management of these cases, I am led to believe that gratifying results will in the end be obtained. I may add that one or two physicians will be associated with myself in the observations made in connection with these cases; also that there are no secret or proprietary remedies used or any methods of treatment followed that would be in the least detrimental to the welfare of the patient. Photographs have been taken of the 3 cases now under treatment, and it is expected that a full report will be made of these and other cases that are likely to come under treatment, to a general medical congress which meets a few months hence in Vienna. Later on I shall be pleased to report to you more fully what has actually been accomplished. The self-denying efforts of Dr. Rezlag freely made on behalf of a class of people subject to a living death, are, I think, worthy of admiration and support, and we shall be pleased to further his efforts in any way that we can.

Respectfully,

JOHN M. SWAN,

*"Surgeon in Charge of Medical Missionary Society's Hospital."*

"Hon. ROBERT M. MCWADE,

*"United States Consul, Canton, China."*

I will make a careful report later on concerning the progress of the result of Dr. Rezlag's experiments.

Respectfully,

ROBERT MCWADE,

*United States Consul.*

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

#### COLOMBIA.

#### *Weekly report of conditions and transactions at Bocas del Toro—Fruit port.*

BOCAS DEL TORO, COLOMBIA, July 8, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the conditions and transactions at this port during the week ended July 7, 1902:

Population according to census, not obtainable. Number of cases and deaths from yellow fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from smallpox during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from typhus fever during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from cholera during the week, none; number of cases and deaths from plague during the week, none; number of deaths from other causes during the week, 4. Prevailing diseases, malarial in character. The 4 deaths noted above were among the soldiers, as follows: One from dysentery, 2 from malarial fever, and 1 (soldier's wife) from hæmaturia. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, good.

Bills of health were issued to the following vessels: July 2, steamship *Mount Vernon*; crew, 20; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none. Steamship *John Wilson*; crew, 18; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none. July 6, steamship *Spero*; crew, 19; passengers from this port, none; passengers in transit, none; baggage disinfected, none.

Respectfully,

PAUL OSTERHOUT,

*Acting Assistant Surgeon.*

THE SURGEON-GENERAL.